

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11
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R 301607Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1533

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS USDA WANAMAKER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: GROUP B MEETING ON INTEGRATED PROGRAM ON
COMMODITIES (IPC)

REFERENCE: GENEVA 9953

1. GROUP B MEETING OF JUNE 28 (SEE SEPTTEL) WAS LEFT LITTLE
TIME TO DISCUSS GROUP B'S POSITION FOR THE AD HOC INTERGOV-
ERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (AHIC) MEETING JULY 10-14. GROUP B WILL
MEET WEDNESDAY JULY 5 TO DISCUSS NATURE OF OPENING STATEMENT
AND PERHAPS BEGIN DRAFTING ITS VERSION OF A REPORT TO THE
TDB--MAINLY AS A MEANS OF FOCUSING ATTENTION ON HOW GROUP B
ENVISAGES THE AHIC CARRYING OUT THIS TASK. (THE G-77 WILL
MEET JULY 6-7 TO DEVELOP A POSITION AND OPENING STATEMENT).
THE MISSION REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON SEVERAL
KEY ISSUES AS INDICATED IN PARA 6 BELOW.

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2. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION ALL GROUP B
MEMBERS (EXCEPT US WHICH DIDN'T SPEAK) INDICATED THEIR
DELEGATIONS WOULD BE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR THE FOURTH AND
FIFTH SESSIONS. SEVERAL EUROPEAN STATES WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS BUT THESE WILL BE THE SAME PEOPLE
AS USUAL, E.G., HAUGESTAD, NORWAY; RUTANEN, FINLAND; GUYOT,

FRANCE. CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY LOCAL MISSIONS ONLY. THE GENERAL SENTIMENT IS THAT THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO SIGNAL TO THE G-77 THAT GROUP B LOOKS AT THIS AS JUST ANOTHER ROUTINE MEETING IN WHICH NO POLICY DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN REGARDING INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES. GIVEN THIS TACIT AGREEMENT IN GROUP B, THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT MISSION CONTINUE TO COVER THIS MEETING AS IN THE PAST (BRUNGART, STREEB).

3. REGARDING THE ROLE OF CHAIRMEN OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS, THE SECRETARIAT REPORTS THAT CHAIRMEN OF COPPER, IRON ORE, PHOSPHATES, TROPICAL TIMBER, RUBBER, TEA, JUTE AND COTTON WILL ATTEND. AMONG THESE THE CHAIRMEN FROM OUTSIDE GENEVA ARE BOUTRY OF FRANCE (RUBBER), WEERAKOON OF SRI LANKA (TEA) AND TOULAN OF EGYPT (COTTON). IT IS WIDELY SUSPECTED THE LATTER TWO IN PARTICULAR WERE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRODUCTS CONCERNED IN THE IPC. IN CONTRAST KENYAN (MEAT) AND GHANAIA (MANGANESE) HAVE NOT REPLIED AND THE SECRETARIAT DOES NOT APPEAR CONCERNED. THIS LEAVES ONLY BRITO OF BRAZIL (HARD FIBERS) AND WANAMAKER OF USA (VEGETABLE OILS) FROM WHOM NO REPLIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. MCINTYRE FEELS AHIC MAY ASK VICE CHAIRMEN TO REPORT IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMEN ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HARD FIBERS AND VEGETABLE OILS SINCE THE VICE CHAIRMEN ARE ALSO FROM CAPITALS.

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4. ROLE OF CHAIRMEN IS STILL VERY UNCLEAR. COMMON VIEW IS THAT THEY WILL DO NO MORE THAN REPORT ON LATEST DECISION IN PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND THEN RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS FOR WHICH THEY DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE INDEPENDENT VIEWS. THIS WILL, OF COURSE, BE VERY DIFFICULT BUT GROUP B CHAIRMEN AT LEAST ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THEY WILL NOT ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WHICH LEAD INTO POLICY ISSUES. IN LIGHT OF ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND MISSION'S UNDERSTANDING THAT WANAMAKER WILL BE IN GENEVA FOR MTN DURING THIS PERIOD, MISSION RECOMMENDS IT BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE SECRETARIAT THAT WANAMAKER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REPORT PROVIDED HIS SCHEDULING PERMITS. MISSION WOULD ALSO ADVISE THAT WANAMAKER'S TIME WOULD, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE TAKE ANY SUCH STEP WE WOULD SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REQUEST AMEMBASSY ROME TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH BRITO EXPLAINING DIFFICULTY FACED BY WANAMAKER BY BEING IN GENEVA IN ANY CASE. BRITO HAS A READY-MADE EXCUSE SINCE SECRETARIAT IS ALREADY AWARE THAT HE IS CHANGING JOBS AND WILL NOT ATTEND FUTURE HARD FIBERS MEETINGS. CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER WE HAVE DISCOURAGED BRITO FROM ATTENDING, THAT US CHAIRMAN NOT ATTEND WITHOUT BRITO HAVING ADVANCE NOTICE.

5. GROUP B APPEARS PREPARED TO DISCUSS GENERAL ISSUES RELATED TO COMMODITIES UNDER THE IPC BUT WILL REFUSE TO GO INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS COMMODITY BY COMMODITY WILL ALSO REFUSE ANY EFFORT TO GIVE GUIDANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY GROUPS. AS AGREED IN PARIS, GROUP B WILL STRIKE UPBEAT NOTE ON PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE ON A NUMBER OF COMMODITIES. GROUP WILL ALSO SIGNAL IT IS PREPARED TO SET MEETING SCHEDULE IN SUCH A WAY THAT SUCH COMMODITIES AS TEA, HARD FIBERS, TROPICAL TIMBER AND JUTE CAN RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION OVER OTHERS WITHOUT HAVING TO AGREE SPECIFICALLY THAT AGREEMENTS WILL BE REACHED, MUCH LESS WITHIN A SPECIFIED DEADLINE. ALTHOUGH THE LANGUAGE IS STILL UNCLEAR, THERE MAY ALSO BE A

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SUGGESTION THAT ATTENTION BE FOCUSED ON ARRANGEMENTS OTHER THAN STOCKING FOR THOSE COMMODITIES WHERE AGREEMENT ON STABILIZATION MEASURES HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS POSES SOME DIFFICULTIES SINCE IT MAY IMPLY AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT TO OTHER MEASURES).

6. FROM RECENT CONVERSATION WITH KEY MEMBERS OF G-77, WE ALSO BELIEVE G-77 MAY TRY TO SET GUIDELINES FOR EACH COMMODITY ASKING THE NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING TO IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF AGREEMENT THAT APPEARS POSSIBLE AND BY WHAT DATE.

IN ADDITION SECGEN COREA IN HIS REPORT (TD/B/IPC/AC/20) HAS SUGGESTED SEVERAL GENERAL AREAS THAT WILL NEED TO BE REVIEWED. THESE INCLUDE SUCH QUESTIONS AS WHETHER (1) REFUSAL TO INCLUDE JUTE AND HARD FIBER PRODUCTS AND COTTON YARNS IN STABILIZATION AGREEMENTS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE REOPENING OF RES. 93(IV), (2) THE CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH TO STABILIZATION IS APPROPRIATE, (3) SPECIALIZED COMMODITY BODIES SHOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SET UP OUTSIDE UNCTAD AND (4) STOCKING BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES DURING PERIODS OF OVERSUPPLY COULD RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. MISSION FEELS THAT ANSWERS ON MOST OF THESE ISSUES ARE QUITE CLEAR AND THERE WILL BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING GROUP B CONSENSUS CONSISTENT WITH US POLICY. MISSION WOULD NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF CHAPTER II OF AC/20 AND COMMENTS ON THESE AND ANY OF THE ABOVE ISSUES, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE GROUP B MEETING NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD GIVE USG PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON TYPE OF REPORT AHIC SHOULD MAKE TO TDB. MISSION ASSUMES US CAN ACCEPT ENDORSEMENT OF COREA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT TDB EXTEND TIME-TABLE OF THE IPC TO THE END OF 1979. MISSION WILL REPORT RESULTS OF GROUP B MEETING NEXT WEEK AND REQUEST FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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